

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 4 as set forth below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conditionally converting comprises converting the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

supplying the data to the database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition in the first format.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the examining includes examining whether said Internet domain name includes at least a predetermined number of labels beyond a given origin, said labels having a predetermined maximum length.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~a~~the predetermined condition upon which the converting is conditional is whether the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, such that the converting is performed for said Internet domain name when the examining indicates that the Internet domain name includes at least the predetermined number of labels beyond the given origin, said labels having the predetermined maximum length, and the converting is not performed when the examining indicates that the Internet domain name does not include at least the predetermined number of labels.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined number of labels is three.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined maximum length is one byte.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
receiving data including another Internet domain name in the second format; and
converting the another Internet domain name received in the second format back to the first format.

9. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:
first means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;
second means for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the second means is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and
third means for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, further comprising:

fourth means for examining whether an Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition, the second means being configured to convert the Internet domain name into the second format when the Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition.

11. (Previously Presented) A name server, comprising:

a first interface configured to receive data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

a modification module, operably connected to the first interface, configured to conditionally convert at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification module is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

a second interface, operably connected to the modification module, configured to supply the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium, the product comprising computer readable code configured to cause a computer to substantially perform:

receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label, wherein the conditionally converting comprising converting the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

supplying the data to the database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

13. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a receiver unit configured to receive data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;

a conversion unit configured to convert at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name are combined to form a single label,

wherein the conversion unit is configured to convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

a supply unit configured to supply the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 13, further comprising:
an examination unit configured to examine whether an Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition, the conversion unit being configured to convert the Internet domain name into the second format when the Internet domain name fulfills the predetermined condition.

15. (Previously Presented) A name server, comprising:
first interface means for receiving data to be supplied to database operations, the data including at least one Internet domain name comprising a plurality of successive labels separated by dots, said at least one Internet domain name being in a first format;
modification means, operably connected to the first interface means, for conditionally converting at least one of said at least one Internet domain name into a second format in which at least two successive labels of the at least one of said at least one Internet domain name form a single label, wherein the modification means is configured to conditionally convert the Internet domain name when the Internet domain name fulfills a predetermined condition; and

second interface means, operably connected to the modification means, for supplying the data to database operations, the supplied data including at least one Internet domain name in the second format.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is configured to enhance database performance in a domain name system.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the system comprises fourth means for enhancing the performance of a domain name system.

18. (Previously Presented) The name server of claim 11, wherein the name server is configured to provide enhanced performance for a domain name system.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the system is configured to provide enhanced performance for a domain name system.

20. (Previously Presented) The name server of claim 15, wherein the name server further comprises enhancement means for enhancing the performance of a domain name system.